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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/737,606	12/14/2000	Pierre Leroux	ATTORINE.	8081
7.	590 09/20/2002			
Corporate Patent Counsel Philips Electronics North America Corporation 580 White Plains Road			EXAMINER	
			MAGEE, THOMAS J	
Tarrytown, NY 10591			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2811	
			DATE MAILED: 09/20/2002	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary Examin		Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Thomas J. Magee The dot Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. The MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. The period for reply specified above is less than thinty (30) deeps, a reply within the attention withorter making date of this communication. If the period for reply specified shows is less than thinty (30) deeps, a reply within the attention without making within the attention of the period for reply specified shows it less than thinty (30) deeps, a reply within the attention within (30) deps will be considered timely. If the period for reply specified shows is less than thinty (30) deeps, a reply within the attention within the period for reply specified the shows the reply within the attention within the period for reply specified the period of the communication. If the period for reply specified shows is less than thinty (30) deeps, a reply within the attention within the period of the considered timely. The period for reply specified shows in the state of the specified the considered timely. Any reply received by the Office lake than there would be the period of the communication. The period of the specified to see a 7 CFR 1-78(5). Status Status Status Status Status Status Status Status Sipposition of Claims Application is FiNAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Sipposition of Claims Application is final the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Sipposition of Claims Application is a specification is objected to by the Examiner. Claims(s) Lisare replected. Claims(s) Lisare replected. Claims(s) Lisare replected is period to the drawing of the pri		09/737,606					
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THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Editections of time may be available used the provisions of 3 CFR 1.13(6), in no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after 50. (6) MONTRIS from the mailing date of this communication. It No peaced from reply is specified above, the maximus date of the communication or reply is specified above, the maximus databove pand value pays and value pays (50) MONTRIS from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to reply within the set or ordereded period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ARANCORED (65 U.S. 5, 13.3). Any reply received by the filids in the translation pand of this communication, even if timely filed, may review all y. Any reply received by the filids in the translation of this communication, even if timely filed, may review all y. Status 1) Responsive to communication(s) filled on 29 May 2002. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1-2 Is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is a system withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) 1-2 is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 1-2 and 4-7 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) 1-2 and 4-7 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or bi objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or bi objected to by the Examiner. 11) The proposed drawings correction filed on is all provision of the priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). 12) The coath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. 12) The coath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. 13) Acknowledgment is made							
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DETAILED ACTION

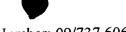
Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Claims 1 – 7 in Letter No. 6 of May 29, 2002 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 103

- 2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office Action:
- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhou (US 6,172,409 B1) in view of Ultratech Model 1000 Stepper Product Sheet.

 Zhou discloses (Col. 6, lines 48 67; Col. 7, lines 4 13) a set of alignment targets, located within scribe lines (Figure 4) at the sides of rectangular die, consisting of a series of lines (12a 12 d) (See Figure 1) at the midpoint along a scribe line. Zhou does not disclose the "size" of the stepper shot to be utilized in the alignment procedure, but it is well known that the shot can be made to overlap several die with the scribe lines at an edge of the shot perimeter (See Ultratech Stepper Inc., as an example, Ultratech Model 1000 Stepper Product Sheet). Further, the shot size can be adjusted to include several die with alignment marks at first and second sides, where the alignment targets are at midpoints of a side of stepper shot.



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4. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhou in view of Ultratech Model 1000 Stepper Product Sheet, as applied to Claims 1 and 2, and further in view of Wolf et al. ("Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era: Vol. 1" Lattice Press, Sunset Beach, CA., (1986), p. 478) and Banks ("Introduction to Microengineering," Demon Co., England (1999), p.2).

Zhou does not disclose the formation of targets by either a positive or negative resist process. However, the formation of features on a material (such as chrome) by these procedures is notoriously well known in the art. Wolf et al. discloses (page 478, Figure 21) the formation of "clear-field" (positive) and "dark-field" (negative) patterns, corresponding to transparent or opaque fields (raised or depressed features). Banks discloses (page 2, 3rd through 5th paragraph) how a negative image (depression on mask) is transferred through the process to a target to produce a positive feature or a negative feature. Hence, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add Wolf et al. and Banks to Zhou to obtain a process for producing alignment targets by a positive or negative photoresist step onto scribe lines of a wafer surface to form raised or depressed target features.

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhou in view of Ultratech Model 1000 Stepper Product Sheet, as applied to Claims 1 and 2.

As discussed previously, since the alignment targets of Zhou are located along scribe lines at the edge of die, a stepper "shot" can be adjusted to include a target at the boundary of the shot in most commercial steppers (See Ultratech Stepper Product

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Sheet) as a "first" shot and subsequently set, such that the same target is used in the second stepper shot in the region adjoining the first region. Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine capabilities of a commercial stepper (such as Ultratech Stepper) with Zhou to provide the ability to overlay alignment targets in subsequent stepper shots in adjacent regions.

6. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Zhou in view of Ultratech Model 1000 Stepper Product Sheet, as applied to Claims 1 and 2 above. Zhou discloses (Col. 6, lines 57 – 61) that the alignment marks in sets have an alignment with respect to each other to include perpendicular, parallel or other combinations to include (Col. 3, lines 21 – 29) squares, rectangles, T-shape, or a cross shape.

Allowed Subject Matter

7. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. A review of the prior art shows that in the instant application, the positioning of alignment targets constituting discrete line features within scribe lines such that the stepper shot would include a reference at each corner of the shot is not taught or suggested by the art.

Conclusions

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to **Thomas Magee**, whose telephone number is **(703) 305 5396.** The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM (EST). If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Tom Thomas**, can be reached on **(703) 308-2772.**. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(703) 308-7722.**

Thomas Magee September 18, 2002

TOM THOMAS SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800